

**Listing of the Claims:**

- 1.(Previously Amended)        A reagent for an agglutination assay for determining an analyte in a sample, said reagent comprising a mixture of microparticles, said mixture comprising first microparticles having a mean diameter from 30 to 600 nm and a refractive index, wherein said first microparticles are coated with a first binding partner for said analyte, and second microparticles having a mean diameter from 30 to 600 nm and a refractive index, wherein said second microparticles are coated with a second binding partner for said analyte, said first microparticles having stronger light scattering properties than said second microparticles, and said first binding partner having a higher reactivity for said analyte than said second binding partner, said microparticles being capable of causing light scattering at wavelengths between 300 and 1200 nm.
- 2.(Original)    The reagent of claim 1, wherein said mean diameter of said first microparticles is greater than said mean diameter of said second microparticles.
- 3.(Original)    The reagent of claim 2, wherein said refractive index of said first microparticles is greater than said refractive index of said second microparticles.
- 4.(Original)    The reagent of claim 3, wherein a ratio of the mean diameter of said first microparticles to the mean diameter of said second microparticles ranges from about 1.5 to about 4.0.
5. (Canceled)
- 6.(Previously Amended)        The reagent of claim 1, wherein said first microparticles and the said second microparticles have a concentration ratio in said mixture of from about 0.01 to about 5.0.
- 7.-8. (Canceled)
9. (Original)    The reagent of claim 1, wherein said analyte is a nucleic acid and said first and second binding partners are oligonucleotide capture probes.

10.(Previously Amended) The reagent of claim 1, wherein said analyte is antigenic and said first and second binding partners are monoclonal antibodies or fragments thereof.

11.-19. (Canceled)

20.(Currently Amended) The reagent of claim 1, wherein said first and second microparticles have a composition ~~have a composition~~ selected from the group consisting of selenium, carbon, gold, a nitride of carbon, a nitride of silicium, a nitride of germanium, an oxide of iron, an oxide of titanium, an oxide of silicium, an epoxy resin, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyalpha-naphthylmethacrylate, polvinyl naphthalene, polystyrene and a copolymer thereof.

21. (Canceled)

22.(Previously submitted) The reagent of claim 1, wherein the analyte is C-reactive protein and the first and second binding partners recognize different epitopes of C-reactive protein.

23.(Previously submitted) The reagent of claim 1, wherein the analyte is prostate specific antigen and the first and second binding partners recognize different epitopes of prostate specific antigen.